

UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TREE SUB-COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, MARCH 14 2007 – 2:00 PM
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33301

Committee Member:	Attendance	2007 Cumulative Attendance		
		Present	Absent	Total
Fred Stresau, Chair	P	2	0	2
Bunney Brenneman	P	2	0	2
Bob Cole	A	0	2	2
Caldwell Cooper	P	1	1	2
Terri Murru	A	0	2	2
Bernie Petreccia	A	1	1	2
L. Thomas Chancey	P	2	0	2

City Staff

Peter Partington, City Engineer

Gene Dempsey, Urban Forester

Travis Woods, Recording Secretary

Guests

Steve Anderson, Florida Power & Light

Wade Jollimore, Broward County Arborist

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 by Chair Stresau.

II. Roll Call

III. Self-Introductions were dispensed with.

IV. Review Minutes of February 1, 2007 Meeting

The following changes were requested to the minutes:

- 1) Item II, Roll Call, Mr. Dempsey is City Staff and not a voting member of the Committee; therefore it is not necessary to note his cumulative attendance.
- 2) Page 4, change as follows:

“He did not believe they could put Sable Palms back in the **landscaping** strip, pointing out that Oakland Park is on Broward

County's traffic way plan and any proposed plantings have to be submitted to their review and **FDOT review**. Mr. Partington stated road resurfacing will be done in that area and there will be very little in the way of landscaping that could be placed back in the **landscaping strip**."

Motion made by Ms. Brenneman, seconded by Mr. Cooper, to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2007 meeting with requested changes. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

V. Old Business

- Sistrunk Substation Screening Project

Although Mr. Battle was not present at the meeting, Mr. Partington advised that he had an email from Mr. Battle stating that, "It was not in our best interest to plant the trees until we conclude our development discussions with Milton Jones." He went on to state that, "The CRA does not maintain the site and probably should not be making comments on tree plantings or maintenance of this issue if we have not voted to do so."

Mr. Partington advised that Mr. Thornburg, the Parks and Recreation Director, had a meeting with the City Manager regarding the Post Office site concluding that since the Post Office does not maintain the landscaping they already have, the City is loathe to add to it. Chair Stresau asked that the email from Mr. Battle be forwarded to Commissioner Moore for informational purposes.

Mr. Chancey noted that they would put the same non-maintenance trees as are already at that location; however, since this decision is not being made with "professional input," he agreed the conclusion should be passed onto Commissioner Moore.

Motion made by Mr. Chancey, seconded by Ms. Brenneman, to forward Mr. Battle's email to Commissioner Moore. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

In response to Mr. Cooper's inquiry regarding Commissioner Moore's interest in this issue, Chair Stresau gave a brief history on the "lack of beautification of the Sistrunk substation" and Commissioner Moore's reluctance to consider another substation in the area until FPL improves the visual impact of the existing substation. Discussion continued regarding planting of sable palms and canopy trees as added landscaping and Commissioner Moore's displeasure in the lack of attention being paid to that area, as well landscape maintenance responsibilities.

- Goals & Objectives of Fort Lauderdale – Tree Specific Display

Mr. Chancey reported that progress has been minimal as he and Mr. Dempsey have been focusing on the Arbor Day Weekend projects.

Mr. Dempsey advised that the grant has been satisfied. Ms. Brenneman indicated she has arranged for blown-up pictures to be viewed for the poster display.

This matter was then deferred to the next meeting for further discussion.

- Continuing Shade Tree Removal in City Rights-of-Way Recommendation

Mr. Partington stated that the pilot program with FPL to date has been aimed at removing palm trees, although in order to add the shade trees as recommended by the Committee, the City Manager will have to place this item on the City Commission agenda. Mr. Partington requested more information on the pilot program, adding it would make sense to bring the entire program parameters to the City Commission at one time.

Mr. Dempsey indicated the next phase of the program would be addressing the area around Broward General Hospital, with a drive-by review being conducted to see which palms would be eligible for relocation. The first phase was deemed successful with the City Commission authorizing continuation on a case-by-case basis. Chair Stresau noted that he had tried to bring the issue of removal of smaller, improperly planted shade trees before the entire UAC. He added that matter should be brought up to the City Commission showing them photographs and asking for their approval and funding to move forward. With regard to the second portion of the program, Chair Stresau felt that the request should be directed from the Tree Subcommittee to the UAC so that when it goes to the City Commission it has the full UAC's support, and not just the subcommittee's recommendation.

Mr. Cooper questioned whether the homeowners would be advised of removal of their trees and was advised the plan is for improper trees planted without permits to be removed, although there will be further discussion with residents and notification regarding the proposed project. Chair Stresau stated with the display being put together it would be easy to explain to a homeowner's association the "heritage" they're leaving future generations by planting oak trees where they've been planted under the power lines. He added the initiation of consideration of this program is to establish how to finance, manage, and accomplish their goal. Mr. Partington expressed concern that if

and when this matter goes before the City Commission, in the interest of full disclosure, they will need to reveal the possibility of controversy from residents who have recently planted trees, and who are now finding themselves in a position where the trees have to be removed against their wishes. Mr. Cooper suggested relocating the trees in lieu of removing them.

Mr. Dempsey pointed out that with the Palm Program, they had gone to each homeowner with troublesome palms who were then given the option to either have the tree dug up, laid down, and left where it could be moved onto their personal property, or the City would relocate the tree to a location of its choosing.

Chair Stresau pointed out it is not necessarily feasibly economical to root prune an oak tree and maintain and water it for weeks before it is moved, as opposed to replacing it with trees out of the Tree Preservation Fund. He also stated another consideration would be if a tree is removed that a homeowner had purchased and planted, it would seem reasonable to consider at least on a one-for-one basis replacing it with an appropriate tree such as a crepe myrtle or some smaller tree in the same spot. Chair Stresau confirmed that their focus is trees planted solely on City right-of-way property.

As part of the presentation to the City Commission, Chair Stresau felt there should be change in the verbiage of the code requiring flexibility in the monies spent from the Tree Preservation Fund.

Mr. Partington advised he will be bringing this matter to the City Manager's office to determine how to further proceed. He added when the FPL City Pilot Program went before the City Commission, it had been presented by the Parks Department, and it was his hope the City Commission would be in favor of this program as well.

- Arbor Day Celebration Reminder

Arbor Day is Saturday, April 28th. There will be a give-away of 400 free trees from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at George English Park. The Arbor Day Celebration will include a dedication of the Butterfly Garden as well as 25 Garden Club trees recently planted at George English Park. They will then be going to Sunland Elementary School to do some planting and further dedications. Mr. Chancey stated they will be announcing and reminding people of the pilot program with the Broward School Board.

There will also be an open house at Sunrise Middle School on April 21st showing the new landscape pilot program. Several community projects are being undertaken for community educational purposes. Mr. Chancey stated he is also working on water

conservation efforts, pointing out that 50% of drinkable water is used for irrigation and also suggesting hose instead of rotary watering to conserve water.

Mr. Chancey asked that the display board discussed earlier be ready and completed in time for the Arbor Day events. Ms. Brenneman & Mr. Dempsey agreed to look at display & blown-up photos in Neighborhoods Services Department immediately after the meeting.

- Other Old Business

VI. New Business

VII. Good of the Committee

Chair Stresau mentioned that when he and Mr. Dempsey looked at the palm trees trimmed under the FLP lines on Oakland Park Boulevard, they noted that no new trees could be set in the 3-1/2 foot strip of grass. One design solution proposed by Chair Stresau would be to create 45-60 degree angle parking, developing a five foot landscape strip parallel with the parking angle, and then replacing the sable palms back out from underneath the power lines. Mr. Dempsey cautioned a project such as this would be difficult to fund as there are no monies available for irrigation and curbs. However, this idea was presented to Commission Teel who went out to the location, took pictures, and then discussed it with the City's Parking Director inquiring about raising the parking rates which may solve financing problems. Chair Stresau anticipates this proposal will be brought up to the UAC at a later date for further discussion.

Mr. Partington agreed with the proposal, but expressed concerns regarding financing, subsequent to estimating the anticipated cost. He was also concerned whether the entire landscaping code would "kick in."

Chair Stresau noted there is very little landscaping in the City parking lots, although in reading the code it appears retroactive landscaping is required. He stated that by sacrificing a few spaces and closing curb cuts, and allowing for the fact that the same design solution may not work on both sides of the road, block after block, anything would be a help as there is now no landscaping at all.

With regard to the February minutes, Mr. Anderson stated that the PSC has approved the FPL 6-year tree trimming schedule request. Ms. Brenneman stated that at the time of their previous meeting, the request had not been approved. As Mr. Anderson

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indicated he would bring in the approved and dated document, Chair Stresau referred this matter to the next meeting.

VIII. Next Meeting – to be determined.

IX. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 3:16 p.m.